Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13. These sheets, which includes Figs. 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13, replace the original sheets including Figs. 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (figs. 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13)

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (figs. 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13)

REMARKS

This letter is responsive to the office action dated November 25, 2008.

Amendments to the Abstract

The Applicants have amended the abstract so that it no longer exceeds 150 words.

Amendments to the Specification

The Applicants have amended paragraphs [0006], [0026], [0028], [0038], [0039], [0042], [0046], [0047], [0051], [0052], [0057], [0058], [0061], [0065], [0070], [0075], [0076], [0077], [0081], [0083], [0086], [0090], [0091], [0094], [0095], [0097], [0098], [0102], [0104], [0107], [0110], [0111], [0112], and [0117] to correct a number of typographical errors, grammatical mistakes, and incorrect reference numerals. No new matter is added.

Amendments to the Claims

The Applicants have amended claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-11, 14, 16-17, 16-17, 21 and 24-28. Without prejudice, the Applicants cancel claims 3, 7-8, 12-13, 15 and 23. The Applicants have added new claims 29-36. Accordingly, claims **1-2, 4-6, 9-11, 14, 16-22 and 24-36** remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, 14, 21, 24-25 and 35-36 are independent (n.b.: this amendment is filed with the fee for two additional independent claims).

The Applicants have made a number of minor amendments to the claims for added clarity. For example, a number of references have been changed from "a plurality of" to "one or more". For example, a number of references have been changed from "one" to

"at least one". A number of antecedents have been clarified or corrected. Support for these minor amendments can be found throughout the application as originally filed.

Claim 1 has been amended to remove the processing step. The processing step has been added as new dependent claim 29. Claims 7-8 which depended on claim 1 as originally filed and refers to the processing step have now been cancelled and added as new claims 30-31 which depend from new claim 29 reciting the processing step. Analogous amendments have been made to claim 9. The processing step of claim 9 as originally field has been added as new dependent claim 32. Claims 12-13 which depended on claim 9 as originally filed and refers to the processing step have now been cancelled and added as new claims 33-34 which depend from new claim 32 reciting the processing step.

Claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that each of the one or more packetized signals may be further processed using the unique global identification code of each packetized signal packet to produce one or more output signals. Support for this amendment is found in paragraphs [0077]-[0089] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that the data of the packetized signal packet includes at least a portion of the extracted data from the retrieved packet source signal packets. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0065] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added. Analogous amendments have been made to claim 10.

Claim 14 has been amended to clarify that the packetized signals include a series of packetized signal packets, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains a unique global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal. Support for this amendment is found

in paragraph [0061] of the application as originally filed. Claim 14 has been further amended to clarify that the extracting and storing in the output processor is based on the unique global identification code in the packetized signal packets of each packetized signal. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0081] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite the input processor of amended claim 14.

Claim 24 has been amended to recite storing, instead of recording, each of the packetized signal packets in a packet storage location. This was a clerical error. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0105] of the application as originally filed. Claim 24 has also been amended to clarify that the global identification code is unique. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0045] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Claim 25 has been amended to clarify that the one or more input stages comprising the packet router determine the global identification code of each packetized signal packet extracted from the packetized signal and that the storage of packetized signal packets in a separate buffer in a packet router memory system is based on the unique global identification code in the packetized signal packets of each packetized signal. Support for this amendment is in paragraph [0100] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Claims 27 and 28 have been amended to depend from claim 26 instead of claim 25 to correct a clerical error.

Claim 35 is new and is directed to the method of producing one or more output signals from one or more packetized signals of amended claim 9. Support for this claim is

found in paragraphs [0077]-[0092] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Claim 36 is new and is directed to the output processor of amended claim 14. Support for this claim is found in paragraphs [0077]-[0092] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Amendments to the Drawings

Figure 2 has been amended to include a reference to buffered signal 156 and processed signals 158. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0036] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Figure 6 has been amended to include a reference to processed signal 222. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0083] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Figure 8 has been amended to correct the reference numeral for the output processor from 106 to 403. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0097] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Figure 10 has been amended to correct "Output Processor Local Controller 504" to "Packet Router Controller 504". Figure 10 has further been amended to correct the reference number for the plurality of packetized signal buffers from 504 to 506 and the reference number for the plurality of packetized signal extractors from 506 to 508. Support for these amendments are found in paragraph [0100] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Figure 11 has been amended to correct the reference number for the plurality of packetized signal buffers from 604 to 606 and the reference number for the plurality of packetized signal extractors from 606 to 608. Support for these amendments are found in paragraph [0105] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Figure 12 has been amended to correct the reference number for the plurality of packetized signal buffers from 704 to 706 and the reference number for the plurality of packetized signal extractors from 706 to 708. Support for these amendments are found in paragraph [0111] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Figure 13 has been amended to correct the reference number for the output terminal from 842 to 214. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0112] of the application as originally filed. Figure 13 has been further amended to include a reference to communication link 850. Support for this amendment is found in paragraph [0115] of the application as originally filed. Figure 13 has been further amended to include additional references to output signal 114 for added clarity. Support for these amendments are found in paragraphs [0112]-[0116] of the application as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Specification

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to because it exceeds 150 words. In response, the Applicants have amended the abstract so that it no longer exceeds 150 words. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C §112

Claim 9-13, 23, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, the Examiner finds the limitation "the output source signals" lacking proper antecedent basis and that the phrase "producing each of the output source signals by retrieving one or more output source signals and combining the retrieved output source signals". In response, the Applicants have amended claim 9 to recite " producing one or more output signals by retrieving one or more output source signals and combining the retrieved output source signals". This limitation is taught in paragraphs [0077]-[0092] of the application as originally filed.

In claim 23, the Examiner finds the limitation "treating the processed packets as packetized signal packets" as vague. The Applicants have now cancelled claim 23.

In claim 27, the Examiner finds the limitation "the global identification code distribution table" lacking proper antecedent basis. The Applicants have now amended claim 27 to depend from claim 26 which recites "a global identification code distribution table".

Accordingly, all of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 have been addressed. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,269,841 in the name of Hendricks et al. ("Hendricks") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,190,695 in the name of Schaub et al. ("Schaub"). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schaub, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2003/1098226 in the name of Westberg. Claims 5

and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schaub and Westberg, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,950,097 in the name of Hojabri.   Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schaub, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,937,291 in the name of Gryskiewicz. Claims 9 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schaub, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0156535 in the name of Lebizay et al. ("Lebizay"). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schuab and Lebizay and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,223 in the name of Wager et al. ("Wager"). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatenable over Hendricks in view of Schaub, Lebizay and Wager, and further in view of Hojabri. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schuab and Lebizay and further in view of Gryskiewicz. Claims 14, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Lebizay. Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Lebizay, and further in view of Schaub. Claim 16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Lebizay and further in view of Gryskiewicz. Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Gryskiewicz. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebizay in view of Schaub. The Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections.

Independent claim 1 (and dependent claims 2, 4-6 and 29-31)

Hendricks and Schaub fail to disclose "assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code"

As noted above, independent claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schaub. The Applicants respectfully submit that Hendricks and Schaub fail to teach or suggest the limitation "assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code" as claimed by the Applicants.

The Examiner has conceded on page 4 of the Office Action that Hendricks fails to disclose the feature of assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code. However, the Examiner cites Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 7-45 of Schaub as teaching this feature. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Applicant's claimed embodiments teach the concept of **a unique global identification code** for the purposes of identifying signals. Unique global identification codes are used to identify signals in both the input processor and the output processor, with each version of a particular signal being assigned a different global identification code (see paragraph [0045] of the application as originally filed). Accordingly, through the use of the unique global identification codes, output signals may be generated that correspond to one or more of the input signals, additional locally generated signals, or data relating to the signals or any combination of such signals (see abstract).

Schaub relates to the distribution of packets from an input link to multiple output links by categorizing each incoming packet based on the packet category and selecting a mapping algorithm to determine an output link for the respective packet (see abstract). Specifically, at column 2, lines 7-45 cited by the Examiner, Schaub teaches distributing packets from the same set to the same output link by parsing out fields in the header of each packet and then applying a mapping algorithm to the parsed fields.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Schaub as teaching "each packet is assigned A, B, C or D to specify the set it belongs to". In the above example, the series of incoming packets already comprise of four

different sets of packets, which are termed set A, set B, set C, and set D for illustrative purposes (col. 2., lines 23-27). There is no teaching or suggestion of "assigning" as claimed by the Applicants.

Schaub gives the example of a series of incoming packets from four different sets of packets (e.g. set A, set B, set C and set D) that are distributed among a number of output links (e.g. output link 1, output link 2 and output link 3) such that packets from the same set are output to the same output link (i.e. set A packets are sent to output link 3, set B packets are sent to output link 1, and set C and D packets are sent to output link 2). As the Examiner will appreciate from the above example, Schaub does not teach **assigning** each of the incoming packets (i.e. each of the packet source signals) a **unique** global identification code.

First, the Applicants respectfully submit that the use of the word "assigning" as claimed distinguish the claimed embodiments from Schaub. While the distinction is subtle, there is in fact an important distinction to be made. Schaub teaches distributing each of the incoming packets to an appropriate output link. This act of distributing as used in Schaub appears to suggest *dividing or sorting* the incoming packets to different output links, which the Examiner will appreciate involves directing the incoming packets to the appropriate output link. On the other hand, the Applicants' claimed embodiments recite "assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code". This act of assigning as used by the Applicants does not mean *dividing or sorting* each of the packet source signals, but rather, that each of the packet source signals be *given or attributed* a unique global code.

Second, even if the Examiner disagrees with the above argument as to the distinction between assigning and distributing, the Applicants respectfully submit that while Schaub teaches distributing each of the incoming packets to an appropriate output link, this

assignment is not necessarily "unique". This point was clearly illustrated in the example given in Schaub where both set C and D packets were sent to output link 2.

Not all of the features of the independent claim 1 is taught or suggested in the documents relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, the subject matter of independent claim 1 would not be obvious to the person skilled in the art as no combination of the teachings of the documents relied upon by the Examiner can yield the subject matter of independent claim 1, regardless of the extent of any motivation to combine. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2, 4-6 and 29-31 which depend on independent claim 1 are also directed to patentable subject matter for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 9 (and dependent claims 10-11 and 32-34)

> *Lebizay also fails to disclose "assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code"*

As noted above, independent claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Schaub, and further in view of Lebizay. The Applicants respectfully submit that Hendricks, Schaub, and Lebizay fail to teach or suggest the limitation "assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code" as claimed by the Applicants.

The Examiner has conceded on page 4 of the Office Action that Hendricks fails to disclose the feature of assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code. The Applicants submitted above, with respect to the Examiner's rejection fo claim 1, that Schaub fails to disclose this feature. The Applicants respectfully submit that Lebizay also fails to disclose this feature.

Lebizay teaches a classifer for classifying all incoming traffic to a particular flow so that the individual packets end up in queues according to the classification – i.e. managed or unamanged (paragraph [0031]).

First of all, the Applicants wish to point out that on page 24 of the Office Action, with respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 24, **the Examiner conceded that Lebizay does not disclose the packetized signal packets are identified with a global identification code**. Moreover, the Applicants respectfully submit that the act of "classifying all incoming traffic to a particular flow" as disclosed in Lebizay does not teach or suggest "assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code" as described in the Applicants' claimed embodiments. Specifically, Lebizay teaches classifying based on whether the packets are managed on unmanaged traffic. There is no teaching or suggestion in Lebizay that the individual packets comprising the incoming traffic are "assigned" (i.e. given or attributed) a unique global identification code. Rather, the "classifying" refers to the flow of the individual packets being diverted through to different switches, similar to the "distribution" (i.e. dividing or sorting) taught in Schaub.

Not all of the features of the independent claim 9 is taught or suggested in the documents relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, the subject matter of independent claim 9 would not be obvious to the person skilled in the art as no combination of the teachings of the documents relied upon by the Examiner can yield the subject matter of independent claim 9, regardless of the extent of any motivation to combine. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 10-11 and 32-34 which depend on independent claim 9 are also directed to patentable subject matter for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 14 (and dependent claims 16-20)

> *Hendricks and Lebizay fail to disclose "...wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains a unique global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal"*

As noted above, independent claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Lebizay. The Applicants note that claim 14 has been amended to clarify that the packetized signals include a series of packetized signal packets, wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains a unique global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal. The Applicants also note that claim 14 has been further amended to clarify that the extracting and storing in the output processor is based based on the unique global identification code in the packetized signal packets of each packetized signal. The Applicants respectfully submit that Hendricks and Lebizay fail to teach or suggest the limitation "wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains a unique global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal" as claimed by the Applicants.

The Applicants' claimed embodiments teach the concept of **a unique global identification code** for the purposes of identifying signals throughout the system. Unique global identification codes are used to identify signals in both the input processor and the output processor, with each version of a particular signal being assigned a different global identification code (see paragraph [0045] of the application as originally filed). Specifically, claim 14, as amended, teaches "one or more packetized signal output stages for retrieving one or more of the packet source signals from the input processor memory system and for producing one or more packetized signals at the packetized signal output ports, wherein each of the packetized signals

includes a series of packetized signal packets, <u>wherein each of the packetized signal</u> <u>packets contains a unique global identification code of one of the packet source signals</u> <u>and data corresponding to the same packet source signal</u>" (emphasis added). The presence of a unique global identification code as part of the packetized signals is particularly important as it allows the packetized signals to be further processed by the output processor using the unique global identification code of each packetized signal packet to produce one or more output signals. Specifically, claim 14, as amended, teaches "one or more packetized signal input stages for extracting data corresponding to each of the packet source signals from each of the packetized signals and for <u>storing</u> <u>data corresponding to each of the packet source signals in a separate buffer in the</u> <u>output processor memory system as an output source signal based on the unique</u> <u>global identification code in the packetized signal packets of each packetized signal</u>" (emphasis added).

Hendricks relates to a cable headened design having a combiner which allows cherry-picking of programs from transponded signals (see abstract). Hendricks teaches the use of a combiner for controlling which television programs are combined and transmitted to viewers (see description of combiner 104, e.g. col. 4, lines 19-32). Hendricks teaches transmitting a modulated signal but does not teach or suggest that the modulated signal contains a unique global identification code along with the data signal. In Hendricks, the combiner comprises different components for selecting and combining. The selecting mechanism comprises a demultiplexer and digital logic components which receives instructions from a control CPU (col. 15, lines 1-4). The combining mechanism comprises a serializer (col. 15, lines 4-5). Control signals from the control CPU instruct the digital logic to select certain videos to be combined and sends the video signals to the serializer which creates the modulated signal for transmission to set top terminals. Specifically, the identity of the video passing through the digital logic is determined by examining the addresses (or other identifying data) attached to the video data (col. 15, lines 48-56). There is **no teaching or suggestion**

on what such **"identifying data" may be** and, more specifically, there is no teaching or suggestion that such "identifying data" may be a unique global identification code of the video signal. Moreover, the Applicant wishes to point out that **the Examiner has conceded on page 4 of the Office Action, with respect to claim 1, that Hendricks fails to disclose the feature of assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global identification code**.

Lebizay teaches a classifer for classifying all incoming traffic to a particular flow so that the individual packets end up in queues according to the classification – i.e. managed or unamanged (paragraph [0031]). On page 18 of the Office Action, the Examiner cites paragraph [0032] of Lebizay as teaching "buffering each of the packetized signal packets containing the same global identification code in a separate data buffer in an output processor memory system". As already noted, claim 14 has been amended to clarify that storing data corresponding to each of the packet source signals in a separate buffer in the output processor memory system as an output source signal is based on the **unique global identification code** in the packetized signal packets of each packetized signal. Although paragraph [0032] of Lebizay mentions that there is a separate set of queues for every destination node, per switch, for managed traffic, there is no teaching or suggestion in Lebizay that the individual packets comprising the managed traffic contain a **unique** global identification code. The Applicants wish to point out that on page 24 of the Office Action, with respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 24, **the Examiner conceded that Lebizay does not disclose the packetized signal packets are identified with a global identification code**. Moreover, the Applicants respectfully submit that the mechanism for distributing traffic to the different queues as taught in **Lebizay is distinguishable from the Applicants' claimed embodiments in that the distribution is not simply based on the existence/presence of a unique global identification code in the packets themselves**, but relies on the use of an external routing table. All incoming traffic is classified by a classifier to a particular flow and the individual packets comprising the

incoming traffic end up in queues according to the classification (paragraph [0031]). A "flow" defines a set of parameters including the destination node (A-Z), the path by which it will get to the destination node (switches 1-N) and classification (managed or unmanaged) (paragraph [0031]). Specifically, the selection of a switch (i.e. the path a flow should take) is based on a routing table (paragraph [0035]). Accordingly, with reference to FIG. 4, it can be seen that the distribution of incoming traffic to managed traffic queues is based on the particular switch selected in accordance with the routing table. As the Examiner will appreciate, the distribution of the incoming traffic to the different queues is based on information contained in a routing table, and not based on information contained within the packets themselves (i.e. a unique global identification code), as is taught in the Applicants' claimed embodiments.

Not all of the features of the independent claim 14 is taught or suggested in the documents relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, the subject matter of independent claim 14 would not be obvious to the person skilled in the art as no combination of the teachings of the documents relied upon by the Examiner can yield the subject matter of independent claim 9, regardless of the extent of any motivation to combine. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 16-20 which depend on independent claim 14 are also directed to patentable subject matter for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 21 (and dependent claim 22)

> ***Hendricks and Gryskiewicz fail to disclose "...wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains a unique global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal"***

As noted above, independent claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of Gryskiewicz. The Applicants note that claim 21 has been amended to recite the input processor of amended claim 14. The Applicants respectfully submit that Hendricks and Gryskiewicz fail to teach or suggest the limitation "wherein each of the packetized signal packets contains a unique global identification code of one of the packet source signals and data corresponding to the same packet source signal" as claimed by the Applicants.

The Applicants submitted above, with respect to the rejection of claim 14, that Hendricks fails to disclose this feature. The Applicants respectfully submit that Gryskiewicz also fails to disclose this feature. On page 22 of the Office Action, the Examiner cites Gryskiewicz as teaching a memory system for buffering the input signals; one or more signal processors for retrieving the input signals form the memory system and for processing the input signals to generate processed signals and for storing the processed signals in the memory system. The Applicants note that the Examiner does not suggest in the Office Action that Gryskiewicz teaches the presence a unique global identification code.

Gryskiewicz relates to video scaling operations (col. 1, line 5). Specifically, Gryskiewicz teaches an adaptive filter for horizontal and vertical scaling of an incoming video data stream, the adaptive filter capable of automatically changing the density of data stored in the available memory in real time, following horizontal scaling, such that more efficient vertical scaling may subsequently be performed. For example, Gryskiewicz notes that the video data stream may be a digital video stream consisting of video pixels transmitted sequentially in the horizontal direction. As the Examiner will appreciate, nowhere does Gryskiewicz teach or suggest that the incoming video data comprise of packets containing a unique global identification code in addition to the data.

Not all of the features of the independent claim 21 is taught or suggested in the documents relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, the subject matter of independent claim 21 would not be obvious to the person skilled in the art as no combination of the teachings of the documents relied upon by the Examiner can yield the subject matter of independent claim 14, regardless of the extent of any motivation to combine. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 22 which depends on independent claim 21 is also directed to patentable subject matter for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 24

> *Lebizay and Schaub fail to disclose "receiving one or more incoming packetized signals, each of the packetized signals including a plurality of packetized signal packets identified with a unique global identification code"*

As noted above, independent claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebizay in view of Schaub. The Applicants respectfully submit that Lebizay and Schaub fail to teach or suggest the limitation "receiving one or more incoming packetized signals, each of the packetized signals including a plurality of packetized signal packets identified with a unique global identification code".

The Examiner has conceded on page 22 of the Office Action that Lebizay fails to disclose that the packetized signal packets are identified with a global identification code. However, the Examiner cites Fig. 1 and column 2, lines 7-45 of Schaub as teaching this feature. The Applicants respectfully disagree. The Applicants note that they have already argued, with respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, that Schaub fails to teach "assigning each of the packet source signals a unique global

identification code" and the Examiner's attention is directed to the arguments above for further detail.

The Applicant's claimed embodiments teach the concept of **a unique global identification code** for the purposes of identifying signals. Unique global identification codes are used to identify signals in both the input processor and the output processor, with each version of a particular signal being assigned a different global identification code (see paragraph [0045] of the application as originally filed).

Schaub relates to the distribution of packets from an input link to multiple output links by categorizing each incoming packet based on the packet category and selecting a mapping algorithm to determine an output link for the respective packet (see abstract). Specifically, at column 2, lines 7-45 cited by the Examiner, Schaub teaches distributing packets from the same set to the same output link by parsing out fields in the header of each packet and then applying a mapping algorithm to the parsed fields.

As a preliminary matter, the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Schaub as teaching "each packet is assigned A, B, C or D to specify the set it belongs to". In the above example, the series of incoming packets already comprise of four different sets of packets, which are termed set A, set B, set C, and set D for illustrative purposes (col. 2., lines 23-27). There is no teaching or suggestion of "assigning" as claimed by the Applicants.

Rather, Schaub gives the example of a series of incoming packets from four different sets of packets (e.g. set A, set B, set C and set D) that are distributed among a number of output links (e.g. output link 1, output link 2 and output link 3) such that packets from the same set are output to the same output link (i.e. set A packets are sent to output link 3, set B packets are sent to output link 1, and set C and D packets are sent to output link 2). As the Examiner will appreciate from the above example, Schaub does not

teach incoming packets (i.e. each of the packet source signals) having a **unique** global identification code.

The Applicants respectfully submit that while Schaub teaches distributing each of the incoming packets to an appropriate output link, this assignment is not necessarily "unique". This point was clearly illustrated in the example given in Schaub where both set C and D packets were sent to output link 2.

Not all of the features of the independent claim 24 is taught or suggested in the documents relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, the subject matter of independent claim 24 would not be obvious to the person skilled in the art as no combination of the teachings of the documents relied upon by the Examiner can yield the subject matter of independent claim 24, regardless of the extent of any motivation to combine. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lebizay. The Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections.

As noted above, claim 25 has been amended to clarify that the one or more input stages comprising the packet router determine the global identification code of each packetized signal packet extracted from the packetized signal and that the storage of packetized signal packets in a separate buffer in a packet router memory system is based on the unique global identification code in the packetized signal packets of each packetized signal.

As the Examiner will appreciate, a single prior art reference anticipates a patent claim if it expressly or inherently describes each and every limitation set forth in the patent

claim: <u>Trintec Indus. Inc. v. Top-U.S.A. Corp.</u>, 63 USPQ2d 1597, 1599 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Accordingly, as **the Examiner has conceded on page 22 of the Office Action, with respect to the Examiner's rejection of claim 24, that Lebizay fails to disclose that the packetized signal packets are identified with a global identification code**, the Applicants respectfully submit that Lebizay fails to disclose the feature of "one or more input stages, each of the input stages configured to … determine the global identification code of each packetized signal packet extracted from the packetized signal, and store packetized signal packets in a separate buffer in a packet router memory system, based on the unique global identification code in the packetized signal packets of each packetized signal" as recited in the Applicants' claim 25.
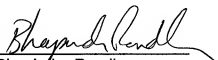
It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 26-28 which depends on independent claim 25 are also directed to patentable subject matter for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner's objections be withdrawn and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone or e-mail to address any issues that can expedite this case.

Respectfully submitted,
PATEL et al.

By _____
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